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COUNTRY	East Germany	SECURITY INFORMATION
TOPIC		REPORT
Military Information from Rathenow		
EVALUATION	PLACE OBTAINED	
DATE OF CONTENT		25X1
DATE OBTAINED	DATE PREPARED	30 September 1953
REFERENCES		25X1
PAGES	ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)	
REMARKS		25X1

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. The telephone line from the Rathenow area toward Nauen, which had been dismantled in July 1953, was reconstructed in mid-August 1953. A 12-wire overhead line extended from Nauen via Nennhausen-Bamme as far as about 6 km south-southeast of Rathenow. About 500 meters west of this point began a new 22-wire overhead line, extending in a westerly direction. This line, in the Bukow area, joined the 10-wire overhead line along the Boehne-Rathenow road, which led to the headquarters in the Zietzen Kaserne. From this point, a 12-wire line extended westward to the Wudicke airfield. Motor vehicles

_____ were seen in connection with the line construction. In early September, a unit bivouacking near Steckelsdorf transferred to the southern edge of Rathenow.¹

On 8 September, the unit, which had left the bivouac, was entrained at the Rathenow-Nord railroad station, with an undetermined number of troops wearing black-bordered black epaulets loaded on 12 boxcars, equipment in 6 boxcars, and 3 prime movers, and 20 to 30 trucks,

_____ on an undetermined number of flatcars. The loading continued on 15 September, with troops wearing black-bordered black epaulets entrained in 8 boxcars and telegraph poles, 2 prime movers and 9 trucks loaded on 10 flatcars with sideracks. _____ In late August,

_____ the field bakery stationed in the former Altersheim (home for aged people) had been reinforced by a second field bakery with an estimated 16 ovens, which were in two large tents, while the personnel of the bakery were quartered in 10 tents.¹

2. Between 7 and 15 September, the Infanterie Kaserne in Rathenow was occupied by about 200 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. Motor vehicles

_____ were seen en route to the installation.

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3. Prior to 15 September, the Pionier Kaserne was occupied by about 200 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. Motor vehicles [redacted] were seen en route to the installation. On 15 September, the Kraftfahrer Kaserne was occupied by about 400 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. On 11 September, about 40 motor vehicles, including 10 M-31 rocket launchers, were seen [redacted]. A total of 1,000 hectoliters of fuel were trucked to the installation from the Nordbahnhof. Motor vehicles [redacted] were seen en route to the installation. ³ Prior to 15 September, the overhead line to the Vudicke airfield had been dismantled and the poles had been trucked to the main station by motor vehicles [redacted] and troops wearing black-bordered black epaulets. ¹ On 12 September, 10 boxcarloads of troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery, signal and motor transport insignia; 6 M-31 rocket launchers and 45 motor vehicles [redacted] were entrained at the Nordbahnhof. Troops and materiel had come from the Kraftfahrer Kaserne. ³
- [redacted]
4. Between 5 and 8 September, the Kraftfahrer Kaserne was occupied by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. All windows of the three barracks buildings, which can be observed [redacted] were lighted after nightfall. Motor vehicles seen en route to and from the installation [redacted]
- [redacted]
5. Between 5 and 8 September, the Pionier Kaserne was occupied by an estimated 250 to 300 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. [redacted] Individual trucks, each occupied by about 20 to 25 EM, left the installation toward Samlin. [redacted]
- [redacted]
6. Between 5 and 8 September, the Infanterie Kaserne was occupied by about 150 troops. [redacted] ³
7. On 7 September, 7 trucks, including 4 trucks towing 85-mm AT guns; and 2 heavy machine guns took position south of the town, with the guns pointing toward the woods. [redacted] The emplacement was still occupied on 8 September. At 5:20 p.m. on 7 September, a column of 12 radio trucks, 17 trucks loaded with baggage, and 12 trucks occupied by troops and towing telescope masts passed through Rathenow, coming from the direction of the new lock and proceeding toward Brandenburg. [redacted]

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8. On 7 September, trucks [redacted] carrying boxes and rods and coming from the Arado installation, were entrained at the Nordbahnhof in Rathenow and left toward Brandenburg. At 10:15 a.m. on 8 September, a truck [redacted] towing a telescope-mast trailer passed through Rathenow, coming from the direction of Brandenburg and proceeding toward Bame. On 9 September, trucks [redacted]

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[redacted] carrying boxes and gasoline barrels and occupied by 3 to 4 soldiers each, passed through Rathenow, coming from the direction of the new lock and proceeding toward the barracks installation. The trucks were heavily soiled. On 6 September, the meadows between the Havel and Strenne Rivers, northwest of Rathenow, were cordoned off. Thirteen biplanes and two high-wing monoplanes were in the southwest corner of this area. The grass on strip, which was 15 meters wide and extended in north-south direction, had been cut; the strip apparently served as runway. [redacted]

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9. On 23 August, truck [redacted], carrying two water containers with a capacity of about 2,000 liters each, picked up water at the Ziethen Kaserne and left for a bivouac, 4 km south of Rathenow, in a woods between the Gruenau and the Friedrichshof forestries. Another 13 trucks [redacted] folding chairs and tables and at least 4 tents were seen in the bivouac. The wood patch was cordoned off. Between 24 and 28 August, trucks of the bivouacking unit were repeatedly seen at the main railroad station, picking up telegraph poles and reels of white wire. On 28 August, the troops started construction telephone lines, which extended from the bivouac via the Gruenau forestry, across the road into the meadows and, from there, toward north. On 30 August, [redacted] an 8-wire telephone line of white wire which, on 15 August, had been constructed by about 50 soldiers equipped with 10 trucks, had been completed. The telephone line joined Highway No 103 near the branch-off to Retzow, 10 km west of Nauen, and, from there, followed the highway. West of the branch-off was a four-sectional mast. Between 2 and 5 September, an undetermined number of trucks, [redacted]

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some of which were occupied, arrived in the wooded area of Friedrichshof and Kruegershorst, southeast of Rathenow. The area was cordoned off. At about 7 p.m. on 8 September, 3 buses, 9 to 10 trucks and 3 sedans, occupied by officers and EM who presumably belonged to a headquarters, left the wooded area on Highway No 102, proceeding southward via Moegelin. On 9 September, 25 trucks, including 13 radio trucks [redacted]

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[redacted] 5 jeeps, and 1 motorcycle were loaded on flatcars, and about 70 soldiers on 6 boxcars at the Rathenow main railroad station. The unit had come from the wooded area and left toward east at 5:30 p.m. [redacted] the wooded area had been vacated from Soviet troops prior to 10 September. At about 5 p.m. on 5 September, five Po-2 planes were seen at an auxiliary airfield between the Havel and Strenne Rivers on the west edge of Rathenow. A Po-2 aircraft was seen over Rathenow on 6 September. At noon on 7 September, two flights of Po-2s were seen over Rathenow, heading toward southeast at a low altitude. At about 6 p.m., the airfield was vacant. 1

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1. Comment. [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] Information in this report tends to indicate that a director headquarters of the group was 4 to 6 km southeast of Rathenow, east of the Gruenau forestry. [redacted]

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[redacted] the telephone lines were furnished mainly by signal units of the GOFG. [redacted] signal units

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of the Second Gds Mecz Army from Fuerstenberg also were in Rathenow, presumably in the Pionier Kaserne, according to paragraph 5 of the present report. The loadings on 15 September probably involved these units and other signal units of the First Gds Mecz Army as, [redacted]

[redacted] each one train went from Rathenow to Fuerstenberg and Dresden [redacted] on 15 and 16 September.

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[redacted] elements of the IV Arty Corps from Rathenow also participated in the exercise, as did the AT guns at the southern edge of the town.

2. [redacted] 25X1

3. Comment. [redacted]
- [redacted] the Kraftfahrer Kaserne and the Pionier Kaserne during the command post exercise probably housed details of signal units of the GOFG from Potsdam-Stahnsdorf and Wuensdorf and of the Second Gds Mecz Army from Fuerstenberg. The loading on 12 September involved units of the 25th RL Brig which [redacted] transferred to Altengrabow on a train [redacted]

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4.

5.

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